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DANIELLE BRAZELL
GENERAL MANAGER

April 21, 2021

Honorable Budget and Finance Committee Members
c/o: City Clerk, City Hall, Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Honorable Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Mayor's FY21-22 Proposed Budget for the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA). As our city and communities across our country begin to shift from crisis into recovery, the Department of Cultural Affairs is pleased that the Mayor's FY21-22 Proposed Budget leverages culture and creativity as drivers of equity, economic activity, workforce development, and belonging. We sincerely appreciate the efforts that the Mayor's Office and the City Administrative Officer are making to continue providing services to the City's highest need communities.

The FY21-22 Proposed Budget maintains and provides one-time funding for the Cultural Grants for Families and Youth grant program, provides direct services for young people and families through our Community Arts and Cultural Centers, and establishes two new workforce development programs that employ creative workers through LA Creates and the Creative Workers Mural Program. The Department is also pleased to receive funding to modernize our Community Arts and Cultural Centers with broadcast equipment, further expanding our ability to reach communities and deliver services remotely.

In addition, the Proposed Budget elevates the important role monuments play in recognizing civic trauma through two new memorials to the Victims of 1871 Anti-Chinese Massacre Memorial and to the Victims of Gun Violence.

The budget also proposes to eliminate critical position authorities commensurate to the positions of the individuals who retired through the Separation Incentive Program (SIP), compounding the impact of the loss of significant institutional knowledge from the retirement of those individuals. To ensure the Department is able to meet its operational mandate, the Department requests the following:

- 1.) Restore Departmental Vacancies Without Funding** - The Department has spent the last 8 years rebuilding from the Great Recession and these vacancies are essential to support baseline staffing in the Department's Community Arts and Cultural Centers and Theaters, and in its administration and marketing areas. These positions include:

Accounting Clerk
Senior Project Coordinator
Performing Arts Program Coordinator I
Arts Associate
Arts Manager I

Arts Manager II
Art Center Director I
Art Center Director II
Senior Management Analyst
Accountant (Resolution Authority)



2.) Amend the Department's As-Needed Departmental Personnel Ordinance as follows:

Remove:

0713	Choral Accompanist
0714	Choral Conductor
0715	Orchestra Director
0716	Vocalist
2431	Piano Accompanist
2443-1	Performing Artist I
2443-2	Performing Artist II

Add:

9171-1	Senior Management Analyst II
1800	Public Information Director I
1538	Senior Project Coordinator
9184	Management Analyst
7926-2	Architectural Associate
9734-2	Commission Executive Asst. II

These modest requests that do not require additional funds and address the essential role staff plays in implementing the equity-based programs delivered by the Department and will ensure the city meets the needs of the people we are committed to serving. In order for the Department's operational model to function properly, these positions are critical to add and restore.

The arts continue to uplift our spirits and navigate this difficult moment in our city's history. After all, arts, culture, and creativity are essential aspects of what makes our city vibrant. They are also vital to accelerating our regional economic recovery.

Sincerely,



DANIELLE BRAZELL
General Manager
City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs

Barbara Romero, Deputy Mayor, City Services
Jeanne Holm, Deputy Mayor, Budget and Innovation
Raoul Mendoza, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor
Richard H. Llewellyn, City Administrative Officer
Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst
Carol Armstrong, Ph.D., Executive Officer, City Services
Maria Gutierrez, Chief Administrative Analyst, Office of the CAO
Andy Chen, Sr. Administrative Analyst I, Office of the CAO
Ashley Stracke, Director of Neighborhood Services, Office of the Mayor
Edna Degollado, Sr. Policy Analyst, Mayor's Office of City Services
Karo Torossian, Chief of Staff, Council District 2